

state/nation/world

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Marine deaths:

President says no change to be made in mission; congressmen call for invocation of War Powers Act

By TERENCE HUNT
Associated Press Writer

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — President Reagan, while expressing "profound sorrow" at the first two combat deaths of U.S. Marines in Beirut, yesterday ordered that the size and mission of the peacekeeping forces remain unchanged.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes, meanwhile, pointedly suggested Syrian and Soviet complicity in the shelling that also wounded 14 other Marines.

Reagan, vacationing at his mountaintop ranch, conferred on the matter via telephone with Vice President George Bush and Secretary of State George P. Shultz in Washington.

Earlier, Bush, Shultz, Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger and Gen. John Vessey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had met as a "special situation" group to assess developments in Lebanon and draft recommendations for Reagan.

Speakes said Reagan accepted their call for no change in the size, mission or patrol area of the 1,200 U.S. Marines taking part in the multi-national peacekeeping force.

Speakes said those issues remain under continuing review and indicated it may yet be changed.

The dead were identified as 2nd Lt. Donald Losey, 28, of Winston-Salem, N.C., and Staff Sgt. Alexander M. Ortega, 25, of Rochester, N.Y. They were the first killed under fire since a contingent of 1,200 Marines was sent to Beirut a little more than a year ago as part of an international peacekeeping force.

A Defense Department spokesman said the wounded suffered only minor injuries and would not be identified.

The deaths of Losey and Ortega prompted calls by influential members of Congress for Reagan to invoke the War Powers Act, a step that would require the Marines to be withdrawn within 90 days unless Congress approves keeping them in Lebanon.

"We can no longer have the president denying that there is imminent danger in Lebanon," said Sen. John Glenn of Ohio, a contender for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination. Such a move also was endorsed by Rep. Clement Zablocki, D-Wis., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Speakes said that while congressional leaders were being briefed on developments, he did not anticipate any formal notification to Congress under the War Powers Act. He said the "special situation" group ordered a review to make sure the administration was complying with the law.

State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said, however, that the administration's obligations under the War Powers Act were "under intensive study" as a result of the fatal attack on the Marines. He said the administration will "take whatever action is called for."

Two conservative legislators, Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, R-Ariz., and Rep. G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., suggested that the Marines be brought home. "The United States has no business playing policeman with a handful of Marines," Goldwater said.

Reagan was awakened at 1:55 a.m. (4:55 a.m. EDT) by Clark with news of the deaths.

"The president expressed profound sorrow, terming the death of two U.S. Marines as tragic," Speakes said. "The president paid tribute to the courage of the Marines in their role as peacekeepers."

Later in the day, the president telephoned relatives of the two men and expressed his and Mrs. Reagan's "personal condolences and sorrow," the White House said.

Weinberger and Marine Corps headquarters here said the fatal Moslem mortar fire appeared to have been aimed at Lebanese Army positions in the vicinity of Beirut International Airport, but fell short of the target and struck U.S. positions.

However, one administration official who spoke only on condition that he not be identified said the attack may have been intended to create political pressure in the United States to withdraw the Marines.

This official said the Syrians, who "clearly are interested in delaying the whole withdrawal" of foreign forces, had applied pressure on the Shiite and Druse religious factions, which the administration blamed for the attack.

Said Speakes: "The Syrian refusal to withdraw (from Lebanon) is certainly a complicating factor that has an effect on the situation there, and certainly we are aware of the Soviet influence on the Syrians."

'The United States has no business playing policeman with a handful of Marines.'

—Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, R-Ariz.

Asked about the possibility of the 1,200 Marines being withdrawn from Lebanon, Speakes replied: "The Marines are there playing an extremely critical role. It is our intention that they will stay there to perform this peacekeeping role that they were sent there (for), and that they have been largely successful in doing."

"We think it is an essential ingredient of U.S. policy, an essential ingredient of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and it is an essential ingredient of the ability of the Lebanese government to restore their national sovereignty," Speakes added.

While the role of the Marines is being examined, it is known that sentiment is hardening within the administration against increasing the number of U.S. troops in Lebanon.

A senior U.S. official, who spoke only with the understanding that he would remain anonymous, said the administration might ask the Israelis to further delay redeployment of their troops in Lebanon to allow for a more orderly transfer of Lebanese Army forces into the positions being vacated.

As for the possibility of an expanded role for U.S. Marines as the Israelis withdraw, the official said that while no options were being foreclosed, "it is much too early in the U.S. discussions to rule in or rule out a limited expansion of their role."

Speakes said the attack on the Marines "does not deter us from our goals. It does not change our determination to pursue the president's peace plan, beginning with the orderly withdrawal of all foreign forces."

Speakes said those issues remain under continuing review and indicated it may yet be changed.

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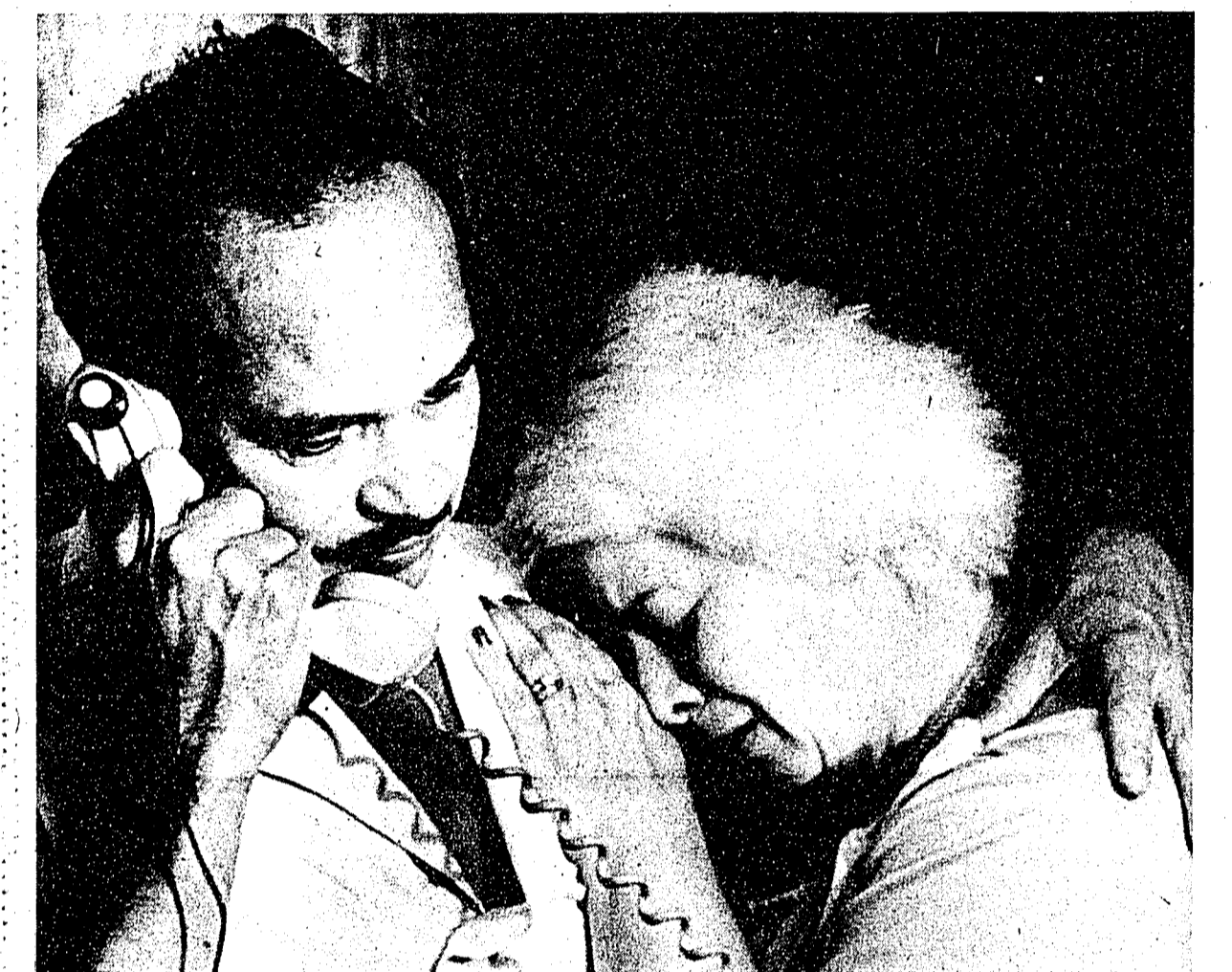
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Alexander Ortega Sr., listens to consolations from President Reagan as his wife, Helen, silently sobs on his shoulder. Their son, Staff Sgt. Alexander Ortega, Jr., 25, was killed in Lebanon during Moslem shelling. The Ortega's live in Henrietta, N.Y.

Economy slows in July

By The Associated Press

New home sales slumped in July and the U.S. trade deficit worsened, the government said yesterday. A separate report offered an encouraging outlook for job seekers.

Sales of new single-family homes fell 6.5 percent in July from the month before, to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 620,000 homes. Despite the slowdown, the latest month's sales rate was 70 percent higher than in July 1982.

Sales declined in every region of the country as an increase in mortgage interest rates helped slow the housing industry's recovery from the recession. Last week a real estate trade group said July home results fell 4.4 percent from June.

The nation's trade position, meanwhile, continued to weaken last month. The Commerce Department said the merchandise trade deficit, excluding investment transactions and trade in services such as tourism — widened to \$6.4 billion from \$4.9 billion in June.

U.S. exports fell 2.2 percent from June while imports rose 4.7 percent.

The July shortfall pushed the merchandise trade deficit for the first seven months of the year to \$33.6 billion, compared with \$19.03 billion in the same period last year.

The U.S. trade position has deteriorated as the value of the U.S. dollar has risen on foreign exchange markets. The dollar's strength in relation to the currencies of the major U.S. trade partners makes U.S.-built goods less attractive to foreign buyers. It also tends to boost U.S. imports of foreign-made goods.

Malcolm Baldrige, the Commerce Secretary, said his department expects a record \$65 billion to \$70 billion merchandise trade deficit for all of 1983 and a "much higher" shortfall in 1984. The trade deficit last year was a record \$42.7 billion.

In a more upbeat report, the Conference Board said its index of help wanted advising rose sharply throughout the nation in July, a sign of an improving job market.

The index, which measures the volume of help wanted advertising in 51 major newspapers, rose eight points from June and 17 points from July 1982. The Conference Board is a business-sponsored group that regularly reports on economic trends.

Kenneth Goldstein, an economist at the Conference Board, said the latest increase in the help wanted index meant employment is improving "much faster than even the most optimistic projections of only a few months ago."

In other economic developments yesterday:

• The American Iron and Steel Institute said domestic steel production rose 5 percent last week to 1.623 million tons. The industry's production amounted to 58.4 percent of capacity during the week, compared with 53.7 percent the week before.

• The Federal Home Loan Bank Board said savers deposited nearly \$4 billion more in savings and loan associations in July than they withdrew, more than twice the net gain in June. Also, the board said the institutions closed \$12 billion in home loans last month, less than the record \$13.9 billion of the previous month.

• Plunging unemployment: The jobless rate dropped from 10.8 percent in December to 9.5 percent last month, the fastest decline in decades.

• Soaring house construction: Housing starts at midyear weren't just improving, they were up nearly 100 percent from one year earlier.

Still, said Robert Ortner, the Commerce Department's chief economist, much of the growth earlier this year was caused by businesses selling off so much of their inventories during the long recession. Thus, even modest rebuilding of those inventories required big increases in production.

"I'm not sure things ever spelled boom conditions," says Sandra Shaber, director of consumer economics at Chase Econometrics in Bala Cynwyd, Pa.

But things were moving ahead rapidly enough to cause Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker to warn in July that "the speed of the current economic advance certainly brings the day of reckoning in financial markets earlier."

He was talking about a potential collision between businesses' borrowing needs for expansion during the recovery, and heavy government borrowing in support of record federal budget deficits.

As many economists see it, continuing rapid growth would make competition for bank loans so fierce that interest rates inevitably would rise sharply.

In addition, the lag in spending for business expansion has left many companies hard pressed to meet Americans' long-pent-up demands for cars and other goods.

Slain Filipino opposition leader's body returns to church in triumph

By KARL SCHOENBERGER
Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines — Slain opposition leader Benigno Aquino's body was returned to a suburban Manila church yesterday for the final stage of a 10-day wake after a weekend on display in his native Tarlac province and a triumphal, 11-hour, 65-mile motorcade back.

Cheering and shouting "Ninoy, Ninoy," Aquino's nickname, hundreds of thousands lined narrow MacArthur Highway in the 11 cities and towns along the way. Several hundred vehicles followed the hearse, which was battered and dented by exuberant crowds that mobbed it in Tarlac.

As church bells rang, the crowds showered the hearse with flower petals and held aloft signs reading "You are not alone."

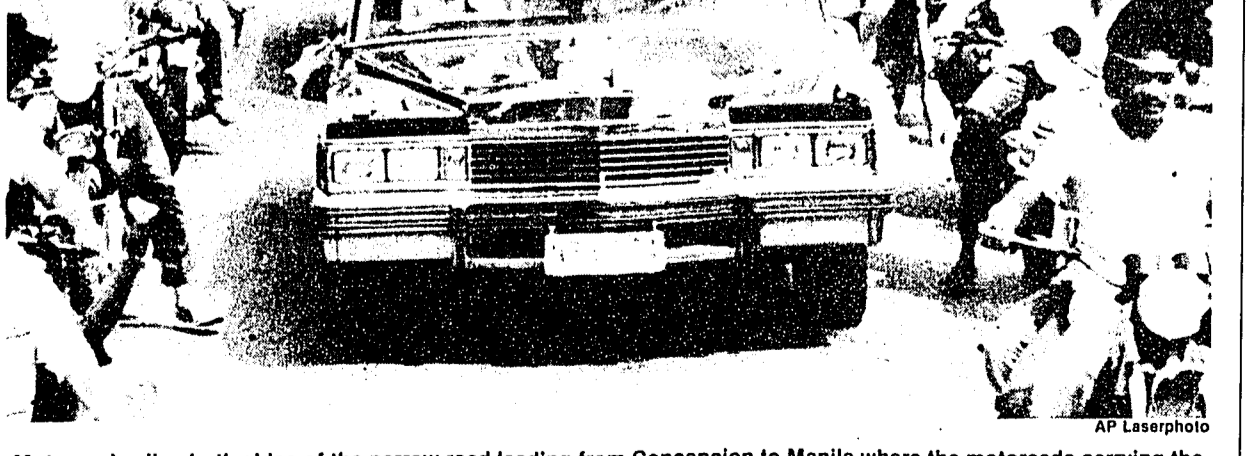
"He looks like he's smiling," said Aquino's 73-year-old mother as she caressed his face.

After the casket was covered with glass again, the long line of mourners began filing past. A flutist and a guitarist played "Bayan Ko," "My Country," a colonial-era ballad comparing the Philippines to a caged bird. Thousands revived the song after Marcos declared martial law in 1972.

The government announced the appointment of another retired supreme court justice, 81-year-old Julio Vilamator, to complete the special five-man judicial commission named to investigate the assassination. It said he replaced Roberto Concepcion, who declined to serve because of his health. He is 78.

The chairman of the commission, Chief Justice Enrique Fernando, met Monday and for the second time postponed its first open hearing, until Thursday or Friday.

The government said the assassin was immediately killed by security men but still has not identified him.



Motorcycles line both sides of the narrow road leading from Concepcion to Manila where the motorcade carrying the body of slain former senator Benigno Aquino Jr. traveled yesterday.

state news briefs

Pittsburgh school negotiations tense

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh School Board yesterday said it will ask a state mediator to schedule the next bargaining session with teachers because of "bad faith demonstrated by the union."

The board is angry because details of negotiations became public after a meeting Sunday, during which 2,000 teachers voted to strike if no agreement is reached by next week.

Classes began yesterday for the district's 40,000 students. The teachers' contract expires on Sunday.

The school board said the union broke an agreement not to "bargain through the media."

The teachers, seeking pay raises that would boost most annual salaries to \$40,000 by 1986, voted 1,678 to 248 to strike if no agreement is reached by next week.

At Fondy, president of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, said the school board is offering a pay increase of 3.5 percent a year, while the teachers are seeking 13.55 percent, 9.09 percent and 10.42 percent over three years.

Pa.'s 1st test-tube baby doing well

PITTSBURGH (AP) — John Thomas Sable, the first test-tube baby born in Pennsylvania, was "doing fine" and resting with other newborns yesterday in the nursery of a suburban Pittsburgh hospital.

"He's a lovely little fellow," said Caley Augustine, a spokesman for St. Clair Memorial Hospital in Mount Lebanon. "He's doing fine, and so is his mother."

The baby, delivered by Cesarean section Sunday afternoon, was the first test-tube baby born in Pennsylvania, according to officials of the Eastern Virginia Medical School at Norfolk, which operates the leading test-tube baby clinic in the United States.

The boy, who weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces at birth, was conceived in vitro, or outside his mother's womb.

His parents, Laura and John Sable of Upper St. Clair, had tried twice before to have a child through the in vitro process, but failed.

nation news briefs

Nixon: Soviets shopping for Mexico

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mexico is the "big enchilada" on the Soviets' shopping list in Latin America and Cuban communists have already established a beachhead there with 27 formal agreements on trade and other forms of cooperation, former President Richard M. Nixon says in a new book.

Nixon also calls Soviet adventurism the greatest threat to peace in the Third World.

While praising Mexicans as hard-working and proud, Nixon says more than a half-century of one-party government has left the country "washed in corruption" and that short-sighted policies have produced an economy in shambles.

Besides, Nixon writes in "Real Peace, A Strategy for the West," which he is publishing himself, the Mexican far-left is fanatically pro-Castro.

Urging support for President Reagan's aid requests for El Salvador, the former president said, "We have learned over and over again that once they establish a beachhead, the communists always want more."

Sunken ironclad's anchor recovered

CAPE HATTERAS, N.C. (AP) — Divers using a flotation bag retrieved the coral-encrusted anchor of the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor yesterday, nearly 121 years after it was dropped in a futile attempt to save the vessel from a storm.

The recovery of the 1,200-pound artifact ended an expedition that began Aug. 21 and was hampered by bad weather 16 miles southeast of notoriously stormy Cape Hatteras.

"It is in very good condition, but it's highly encrusted with coral, shells and sand," said Jack Strangier of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which sponsored the project with East Carolina University. "It came up with 6 feet of chain."

The Monitor sank Dec. 31, 1862, despite attempts to turn the vessel into the lashing waves by dragging the anchor from its 700-foot chain, said Dina Hill, project coordinator for ECU.

"It was apparently an attempt to turn the bow around, but when the chain ran out, it pulled the lining out of the anchor well and that let more water in," she said. "That may have been the final blow."

More students pass literacy test

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — More than 400 members of Florida's class of 1983 have finally passed a literacy test and will receive their high school diplomas, a state official said yesterday. Students are allowed to take the literacy test as many times as they want, but they must pass the two-part exam to qualify for diplomas.

During 1983 graduation ceremonies in May and June, some 1,200 seniors were handed certificates of completion instead of diplomas because they had flunked the literacy test. They were the first to be denied diplomas under the test.

The state administered the test again in July, and more than 400 students passed. Therefore, fewer than 800 members of the class of 1983 — less than 1 percent — have not passed the exam.

The test, designed to find out if students can apply basic knowledge, covers math and communications.

Education Commissioner Ralph Turillington said students who failed the literacy test can return to high school for another year or enroll in adult-education programs.

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